



## UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
[www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov)

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/587,827	07/28/2006	Naoaki Yamasaki	1830,1025	2378
21171	7590	07/22/2010	EXAMINER	
STAAS & HALSEY LLP			SCHLIENTZ, NATHAN W	
SUITE 700				
1201 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.W.			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
WASHINGTON, DC 20005			1616	
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
07/22/2010		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/587,827	<b>Applicant(s)</b> YAMASAKI ET AL.
	<b>Examiner</b> Nathan W. Schlientz	<b>Art Unit</b> 1616

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If no period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).

Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 April 2010.

2a) This action is FINAL.      2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)

Paper No(s)/Mail Date 9/27/06 4/13/09 4/30/10

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date: \_\_\_\_\_

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application

6) Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Election/Restrictions***

The restriction requirement mailed 30 March 2010 is hereby WITHDRAWN.

***Status of the Claims***

Claims 1-11 are pending in the present application.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

1. Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 9 recites "liquid or semisolid at ***normal temperature***". It is not clear what temperature is considered "normal". The specification does not define the term "normal temperature", and "normal temperature" is not a term with a well-known meaning in the art.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

- (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and

the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1,148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

1. Claims 1-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Obae et al. (WO 02/02643; the English-language equivalent US 2004/0053887 is referred to herein) in view of Yaginuma (JP 01-272643; JP 02-084401; and JP 03-264537), Kennedy et al. (Journal of the European Ceramic Society, 1997), and Ek et al. (US 5,607,695).

**Determination of the scope and content of the prior art**  
**(MPEP 2141.01)**

Obae et al. teach cellulose powder having an especially excellent balance among moldability, fluidity and disintegrating property, wherein the cellulose powder has an average particle size of 20-250 µm, and an angle of repose of 55° or less (Abstract). Obae et al. teach natural cellulosic material, such as a vegetable fibrous material derived from a natural material containing cellulose, such as wood, bamboo, cotton, ramie or the like, and is preferably a material having a crystalline structure of cellulose I type ([0061]). Conditions for obtaining the cellulose dispersion having an average polymerization degree of 150-450 are, for example, carrying out the hydrolysis under

mild conditions in a 0.1-4N aqueous hydrochloric acid solution at 20-60 °C ([0062]). Obae et al. further provide examples wherein the average particle size is 30-105 µm, the angle of repose is 35-44°, the specific surface area (nitrogen) is 1.4-2.4 m<sup>2</sup>/g ([0201], Table 3 on pg. 18), the hardness is 171-281 N, and the disintegration time is 4-72 sec ([0202], Table 2 on pg. 19). Also, the instant specification states that Obae et al. describes a cellulose powder according to Comparative Examples 2 and 3 (pg. 7, ln. 13-23; and pg. 19, ln. 24); and Comparative Examples 2 and 3 describe cellulosic powder with type I crystalline form cellulose, specific surface area of 1.5 and 1.7 m<sup>2</sup>/g, secondary aggregate structure, and 45 and 38 µm average particle size (Table 1). Obae et al. further teach a molded product comprising the cellulose powder and an active ingredient ([0035]-[0038] and [0081]-[0083]).

**Ascertainment of the difference between the prior art and the claims**

**(MPEP 2141.02)**

Obae et al. do not explicitly disclose the pore volume within the cellulosic particle of 0.265 cm<sup>3</sup>/g to 2.625 cm<sup>3</sup>/g, as instantly claimed. However, Yaginuma teaches porous cellulose particles wherein the particles comprise type I crystal form and a pore volume of 0.3-1.2 cm<sup>3</sup>/g (Abstracts). The cellulose powder of Obae et al. is prepared in a very similar manner as the porous cellulose particles of Yaginuma, comprising mixing commercial pulp with aqueous HCl and stirring at elevated temperature for a certain amount of time, followed by washing, neutralizing and filtering, then dispersing to a certain solids content and then spray drying (Comparative Examples 2, 3, 6 and 7 of the instant specification). The variables that change from each of Comparative Examples 2,

3, 6 and 7 are the concentration of HCl, temperature and duration of stirring, and the solids content prior to spray drying. It's clear from Obae et al. and Yaginuma that these changes in variables can affect the physical properties of the resulting porous cellulose particles, such as pore volume, specific surface area, average particle size, etc.

Obae et al. also do not explicitly disclose molded products comprising their porous cellulose particles and a poorly water-soluble active ingredient, sublimable active ingredient, an active ingredient that is liquid or semisolid at normal temperatures, or an active ingredient that has been finely pulverized to a particle size of 40 µm or less, or 10 micron or less, as instantly claimed. However, Yaginuma teaches that the porous cellulose particle is suitable as an adsorptive carrier for insoluble fine particle component of foods or pharmaceuticals (Abstract of JP '643); suitable for drug absorption carriers (Abstract of JP '401); as well as absorbing a drug to the particle by sublimation (Abstract of JP '537). Further, Ek et al. teach porous cellulose particles wherein a bioactive substance or bioactive substances in a solid, liquid, or semisolid form, preferably as a solid, solution, suspension, emulsion, oil, super critical fluid or melt, could be absorbed, precipitated or sublimized into the porous structure of the cellulose matrices (col. 4, ln. 15-20). With regard to the particle size of the active ingredient, in the absence of evidence to the contrary, one of ordinary skill in the art would readily be able to determine the necessary particle size of the active ingredient to be effectively carrier by the porous cellulose particles.

**Finding of *prima facie* obviousness**

**Rational and Motivation (MPEP 2142-43)**

Therefore, it would have been *prima facie* obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to alter through routine experimentation the concentration of HCl, temperature and duration of stirring, and the solids content prior to spray drying in order to obtain porous cellulose particles according to Obae et al., wherein the particles comprise a pore volume of 0.3-1.2 cm<sup>3</sup>/g, according to Yaginuma. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to obtain a large pore volume, such as taught by Yaginuma, in order to increase compaction strength, as reasonably taught by Kennedy et al. (Abstract; and pg. 137, left column). It would have also been *prima facie* obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to use the porous cellulose particles to carry a pharmaceutical active agent that is solid, semisolid, liquid, poorly water-soluble, and/or sublimable, as reasonably taught by Yaginuma and Ek et al.

From the teachings of the references, it is apparent that one of ordinary skill in the art would have had a reasonable expectation of success in producing the claimed invention. Therefore, the invention as a whole would have been *prima facie* obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, as evidenced by the references, especially in the absence of evidence to the contrary.

#### **Contact Information**

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nathan W. Schlientz whose telephone number is 571-272-9924. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Johann Richter can be reached on 571-272-0646. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

NWS

/John Pak/  
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1616